

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the present application, of which claims 4-13 have been withdrawn pursuant to 35 USC 121. Accordingly, claims 1-3 are currently active.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more distinctly claim the invention. In particular, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to expand the heating range of 250°C to 800°C. The claims have also been amended to recite that the washing step subsequent to the heating step reduces impurities in the basic copper carbonate powder. Claim 1 was further amended to recite the step of supplying basic copper carbonate powder into a heating furnace. Adequate written descriptive support for these amendments should be apparent throughout the detailed specification. For example, support for the amendments can be found on page 8, second full paragraph, and page 10, second full paragraph of the specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments add no new matter to the application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims are distinct from the art of record. In particular, the art of record does not acknowledge the advantages of a method for manufacturing a copper electroplating material by first heating basic copper carbonate powder to produce easily dissolved copper oxide followed by washing the easily dissolved copper oxide to reduce impurities in the basic copper carbonate powder. These steps and their order have not been appreciated in the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims pending in the present application are patentable. Favorable consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited.

Serial No.: 09/944,344

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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